

IMA, Occupational Therapist Reserve Component

*By LTC Mary Altena
IMA, OT Section*

I am LTC Mary Altena (Kavanaugh). I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) to LTC Karen Cozean, Chief of the Occupational Therapist Section, active component.

I started my military career in the OT Internship Program and was on active duty from July 1979 to January 1986. Since then I have been in a variety of reserve units to include general hospitals, combat support hospitals, creating my own OT “clinic” in Adak, Alaska on the Aleutian Island, to my last unit in a combat stress control detachment.

As a reservist, I know at times I felt completely lost as to what was happening with the SP Corps, what my role was, what opportunities could the Corps provide me. My main job is to be a liaison between the reserve component (RC) with the active component (AC). To keep the lines of communication open, my goal is keep the OT reservists informed of SP corps issues and concerns, their role and responsibilities as a member of the SP Corps/Army, and education/training opportunities.

During my 2-week annual training with LTC Cozean this past July, I initiated steps to promote a communication network with 170 OT reservists to include IRR, IMA, and TPU soldiers. In order to keep in contact with both the active and reserve OTs, I plan to set up data site on the AMSC homepage and the SP KE websites under Reserve Affairs to include a newsletter for the OT reservist and a site to list training opportunities.

As part of training opportunities, I would like to list on the SP KE where OT reservists are needed and can perform their annual training at military clinic facilities. I know some of you are having reservist come to your facility to do their annual training on a regular basis. In order to initiate this site, I need to know from the AC OT sites the need for coverage by the OT reservist. Another issue is who is funding the training. If an OT reservist is part of a TPU, annual training funding is usually covered by their TPU. However, if a reservist has completed their annual training and is looking to do another 2 weeks to help cover your clinic, funding my need to come from the requesting AC OT site. If a reservist OT is in the IRR, their funding to do AT comes from ARPERSCOM.

If you do have a need for an OT reservist to perform annual training with you, please contact me at mary.altena@us.army.mil. I would need to know the dates,

name of military facility, area of practice the coverage is needed, and point of contact. We can work out the details if you want the OT reservist to contact your facility directly or have them go through me to set up possible training opportunities for annual training. Reservists in TPU will need to get their unit's approval (DA1058R) to complete AT.

I look forward to working with you all. I need to hear from you as to how I can best serve and keep the lines of communication open between the AC and RC OTs.

Thank you,

Mary M. Altena
LTC, SP
IMA, to the chief Occupational Therapy SP Corps